

Every dog can have his day at Dogtown Downtown in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher



Is the city council in the doghouse again?

Photo provided

All the coolest Lamorinda dogs are currently planning to attend Dogtown Downtown from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, April 29.

The annual event, now in its fourth year, welcomes all well-behaved, leashed doggy participants, kicking off with a grand parade from the Lafayette Library and Learning Center to the Lafayette Plaza Park where all the activities and contests will be taking place.

The free event will include working dog and canine agility demonstrations by the Lafayette Police and Canine Companions.

For those dogs who don't have to take their canine professionalism to that sort of degree in their working career, there are more attainable

goals in the friendly competitions such as Best Dog-Owner Team Trick, Dog who can "Stay" the Longest, Best Costume and Best of Show.

In addition to the fun dog competitions there will be creative canine crafts and other activities for dog lovers of all ages.

Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation and Contra Costa County Animal Services will also be present and available for pet adoptions. The fun event will have plenty of dog-related vendors.

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Lafayette Library and Learning Center and the City of Lafayette host the annual community event.

Lafayette wins Great Place in California award

By Pippa Fisher



Preserving its hillsides was a plus for Lafayette.

Photo provided

As residents of Lafayette have long suspected, they are living in a pretty great city. Now the California Chapter of the America Planning Association has made that official with its "Great Places in California" award going to Lafayette.

The APA hands the award annually to only three locations in the state that exemplify character, quality and excellent planning regardless of whether it be a small town, a suburb, a public park or preserved open

space. The APA says, "It must be a place where people want to be!"

According to the notification, "The jury was highly impressed with the city's efforts to concentrate growth in its increasingly vibrant downtown area and to preserve the city's natural hillsides as a sustainable, multipurpose resource that defines the character of the city."

The city will receive the award at the APA Annual Awards Gala on June 2 at Preservation Park in Oakland.

Residents can take steps to deter crime, says Lafayette Police Chief

By Pippa Fisher

Crime tends to go in waves and Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen said that despite the perception that burglaries are up, in fact so far this year, residential burglaries in Lafayette are down from the same period last year.

That was one of the messages Lafayette's top cop told several Lafayette residents who recently braved the stormy elements and turned out for an informal style meeting to hear Christensen update them on the latest crime trends within the community.

Furthermore, Christensen made the point that of the seven residential burglaries so far in Lafayette, all seven have been solved. He at-

tributes this in part to their practice of collecting DNA at every crime scene to build a database, which he says is far superior to fingerprinting. He said that most criminals who have reached the level of attempting residential burglary are repeat offenders.

City-installed cameras have made catching criminals as they attempt to flee much easier, Christensen said.

He believes in keeping crime out of his city by being hard on those who attempt it here. He pointed out, "You will never correct the behavior but you can affect where they shop."

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